Little known entomological literature – 8

Times Telescope was an almanac published monthly in the early years of the nineteenth century. It contained a curious mixture of useful information, curious facts and astrological predictions. Above all it was very "natural history" orientated and each issue contained a monthly account, under the title of *The Naturalists Calendar* drawing attention to the insects, birds, other animals and flora that might be seen in that month. It actually contains one of the earliest mentions of migration.

Many of the volumes contain an extensive *Introductory Essay* and eight of these concern natural history with two being devoted entirely to insects and the final one in the concluding volume is by Professor Rennie (perhaps better know for his *Conspectus of butterflies and moths* and his three books *Insect Miscellanies, Architecture and Transformations*) and this contains extensive entomological material. The authorship of the various articles were, as was so often the case in those days, anonymous, but one cannot but have the impression that perhaps Professor Rennie may have been one of them. They are all, including the monthly notes, worth studying for the insight they give into the state of knowledge and attitudes to the study of natural history nearly two hundred years ago. It is also likely that it was articles such as these, not overtly scientific, that will have been read by and aroused the enthusiasm of the rising generation of Victorian Entomologist such as Newman, Doubleday, Westwood, Stainton, etc.

It is worth listing all these Introductory essays as the non natural history ones show the extensive range of coverage of this periodical. They are as follows.

VOL 1	1814	Introduction, The Calendar of Julius Caesar.
VOL 2	1815	Principles of Astronomy.
VOL 3	1816	Elements of Botany pp vii-xxx.
VOL 4	1817	Principles of Zoology pp vii-lxx.
VOL 5.	1818	Outlines of Geology pp vii-xxiv and Outlines of mineralogy pp xxv-liv.
VOL 6	1819	Compendium of chemistry pp vii-l.
VOL 7	1820	Outlines of Entomology pp ix-lxviii.
VOL 8	1821	Elements of British Ornithology pp xi-lxxxviii, with a fine coloured plate.
VOL 9	1822	Outlines of Conchology pp xiii-lxiv, with a fine coloured plate.
VOL 10	1823	On the habits, economy and uses of British insects pp xvii-lxxii, with a fine coloured plate.
VOL 11	1824	Historical and physical Geography pp xxi-cxiv.
VOL 12	1825	A brief history of English Sacred poetry
VOL 13	1826	The physical powers of man.
VOLS 14-19	1827-33	These volumes do not have an introductory essay.
VOL 20	1834	Notes of a Naturalist by Professor Rennie. Separately paginated pp 1-146 with 2 steel engraved plates depicting Baron Cuvier and Sir Joseph Banks on the one and "The Moralist" on the other.

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